

Rotary
Club of Nashville



**ROTARY CLUB
OF NASHVILLE
&
NASHVILLE
ROTARY
SERVICE TRUST**

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

WWW.NASHVILLEROTARY.ORG

As I rose to the podium on May 3, 2021, to ring the bell for my first in-person meeting as president, I reflected on the prior 10 months. I reflected on how Rotarians persevere. Things were different. There were fewer people allowed at our projects. Still, we worked on two Habitat houses, we packed backpacks at Second Harvest and we sorted medical supplies with Project Cure. We packed and distributed nearly 2,000 boxes of food to our Nashville neighbors over two weekends with our annual Feed the Need initiative. We persevered. We had great speakers join us from our city and across the country. Together, we learned from a broad spectrum of views. We toured the new Tennessee State Library and Archives and The National Museum of African American Music, albeit virtually. We had 35 new members join our club. We persevered.

I remembered how in October and November, as we were determining how to safely return to in-person meetings, the city experienced spikes in COVID-19 infections. I confess that by January, I was resigned to becoming the first virtual Rotary president. We persevered. Together as we look forward, we see a return to normal, knowing we met the challenges last year brought. We persevered.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the members of the Board of Directors, the many committee chairs, and to the many volunteers who helped to lead the Rotary Club of Nashville. I want to thank Caroline Rossini, our operations manager and QuickBooks guru. To Olivia Leow: Thank You. Unless you serve as president, you do not know how much work goes into running a Rotary Club of our size. Whether managing the mundane or tackling the biggest challenges, Olivia conducted our club's daily business with aplomb. Finally, I want to thank each of you for your support and your many kind words. It's been an honor to serve you as the 106th president of the Rotary Club of Nashville. I was blessed I could stand on the shoulders of the many who served before me, and I look forward to helping lift Lauren Payne to success next year.

My Very Best,

Richard



OUR MISSION + LEADERSHIP

**To impact our
community by
creating
forums for
fellowship,
understanding
and service
among
engaged
leaders.**

Board of Directors

Richard Exton, President
Lauren Lane Payne, VP/President Elect
Angie Adams, Secretary/Treasurer
Kim Estep, Sergeant-at-Arms
Harry Allen Immediate Past President
Angela Goddard, NRST Grants Chairperson
Ken Youngstead, Finance Committee Chairperson
Jacky Akbari
Jessica Averbuch
Christine Bradley
Kristen Keely-Dinger
Lisa Ferrelli
David Fox
Tony Heard
Kem Hinton
Veronica Marable Johnson
William Liles
Joanne Pulles
Bob Stokes



ROTARY BY THE NUMBERS

524

We welcomed 44 new members this year, ending the year with 524 total members. Thank you for sponsoring community leaders in your network!

17

17 service projects completed this year. Thank you for signing up and showing up to live out our motto of Service above Self!

\$150,000

We awarded \$150,000 in grants to 9 organizations serving our community and beyond. Thank you for giving to our Nashville Rotary Service Trust to make this possible!

152

Average meeting attendees this year at our 44 Rotary virtual and hybrid meetings this year. Thank you for showing up to listen and learn!



We create a forum for fellowship.

The Rotary Club of Nashville is known for creating opportunities for fellowship among engaged leaders.

- The Member Orientation committee hosted 3 virtual New Member Orientation events via Zoom.
- A group of Rotarians and friends gathered for a picnic at Cheekwood to enjoy the Chihuly exhibit.
- Rotarians toasted to St. Patrick's Day at a Zoom happy hour.
- Due to COVID-19, we took fellowship virtual, hosting several coffee and happy hour events.



Social Media

-  1,210 Facebook followers @NashvilleRotaryClub
-  1,945 Twitter followers @N4ashvilleRotary
-  544 Instagram followers @NashvilleRotary
-  469 LinkedIn followers Rotary Club of Nashville

FORUM FOR FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Board Liaison: Jessica Averbuch | Fellowship: Abe Mbow
 Communications Board Liaison: Veronica Marable Johnson, Committee: Deb Varallo, Joyce Vise



Nashville Rotary virtual meeting-January 4, 2021



Rotarians are leaders who seek to better understand what is happening in our community. The program committee brought a diverse group of speakers to the Rotary podium this year. Rotary hosted 44 meetings. We were able to transition from virtual to hybrid meetings on May 3.

Speakers included Governor Bill Lee, Mayor John Cooper, MNPD Chief John Drake. We learned from education leaders, sports and tourism leaders and authors. Topics ranged from current affairs, lessons on racial justice and guests from around the country.

The Rotary Club of Nashville sponsors an Interact Club at LEAD Academy and a Rotaract Club at Fisk University. These clubs share Rotary's values and promote service above self for members.

FORUM FOR UNDERSTANDING



FORUM FOR SERVICE

We create a forum for service.

Rotarians believe in Service above Self.

Backpacks with Second Harvest-Every month of the school year, Rotarians gather at Second Harvest Food Bank to pack 1,225 food packs to be distributed to children who experience food insecurity on the weekend.

Feed the Need- Over 250 Rotarians, along with their friends and family, gather for 4 service opportunities, packing and delivering food boxes to over 1,900 of our neighbors in need. This year looked a bit different with volunteers working in smaller groups to get boxes built, packed and delivered.

Habitat for Humanity- In October and May, we worked to build homes for our neighbors. In May, we worked on Nashville's first ever Habitat townhome community.

Project C.U.R.E.- Throughout the year, Rotarians sort donated medical supplies that will be shipped to medical providers in underserved countries.

Book 'em- Rotarians met virtually with an assigned classroom several times throughout the year, delivering a story and a free book for each child.

Inspiritus-On a beautiful morning in April, Rotarians worked to prepare healthy food gardens that produce healthy, free food for our neighbors in North Nashville.

Tree Planting- Our sustainability committee led the charge on planting over 300 trees at Percy Warner Park this spring.

Warner Elementary- Nashville Rotary began its relationship with Warner Elementary supporting teachers with catered lunches and gifts throughout the year.
